

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A record carrier suitable to be scanned by means of a single scanning head and provided with at least two substantially parallel information layers, characterized in that each layer ~~comprises~~ contains a block of control information ~~having~~ including layer control information for controlling the scanning of multiple other blocks of said layer.

2. (currently amended) A record carrier ~~as claimed in Claim 1,~~ suitable to be scanned by means of a single scanning head and provided with at least two substantially parallel information layers, characterized in that each layer contains a block of control information including layer control information related to multiple other blocks of said layer characterized in that the control information blocks ~~substantially~~ of different layers have substantially the same physical location in the plane of the different layers, to reduce displacement of the scanning head when sequentially reading the control information blocks of different layers.

3. (currently amended) A record carrier ~~as claimed in Claim 1~~ suitable to be scanned by means of a single scanning head and provided with at least two substantially parallel information layers, characterized in that each layer contains a block of control information including layer control information related to multiple other blocks of said layer, characterized in that tracks of user information in one of the layers is sequentially ordered in a given direction in the layer, and in that the tracks of user

information in another layer is sequentially ordered in the opposite direction.

4. (currently amended) A record carrier ~~as claimed in Claim 1, 2 or 3~~ suitable to be scanned by means of a single scanning head and provided with at least two substantially parallel information layers, characterized in that each layer contains a block of control information including layer control information related to multiple other blocks of said layer, characterized in that one of the control information blocks has an indication about the number of information layers in the record carrier.

5. (currently amended) A record carrier suitable to be scanned by means of a single scanning head and provided with at least two substantially parallel information layers, characterized in that each layer contains a block of control information including layer control information related to multiple other blocks of said layer ~~as claimed in Claim 1, 2 or 3~~, characterized in that at least one of the control information blocks contains ~~comprises~~ a sub-block having a global indication about user information stored in another of the layers.

6. (currently amended) A record carrier as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding Claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that said carrier is disc-shaped

7. (currently amended) A record carrier as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding Claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that said carrier is an optical record carrier.

8. (currently amended) A scanning device for scanning a record carrier ~~as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims~~ suitable to

be scanned by means of a single scanning head and provided with at least two substantially parallel information layers, characterized in that each layer contains a block of control information including layer control information related to multiple other blocks of said layer, characterized in that the device is provided with means for sequentially reading the blocks of control information before reading or writing user information.

9. (currently amended) A record carrier provided with at least two substantially parallel information layers, characterized in that a first information layer comprises user information in a first format and a second information layer comprises ~~the same~~ user information in a second format, the user information in the second layer including substantially the same contents as all the user information in the first layer.

10. (currently amended) A record carrier as claimed in Claim 9, characterized in that the second information layer further comprises ~~the~~ user information also in a third format that is different than the second format.

11. (currently amended) A record carrier as claimed in Claim 9, characterized in that, in addition to said same content user information, the second information layer comprises further user information having content that is not contained in the first information layer.

12. (new) The record carrier of claim 9 wherein the second format has a higher data density than the first format.

13. (new) The record carrier of claim 9 wherein the first format includes 16 bit encoding according to the CD audio standard and the second format includes 24 bit audio encoding.

14. (new) The record carrier of claim 9 wherein information is scanned in one layer in a phase structure and information is scanned in another layer in a magnetization structure.

15. (new) A record carrier, comprising:

multiple substantially co-extending parallel information layers;

each layer including a user area formatted for user information and a control area formatted for control information including layer control information for controlling the scanning of the user information of only the layer containing the layer control information; the control area of at least one of the layers also being formatted for containing global control information for controlling the scanning of the user information of other information layers than the layer containing the global control information, the control area of at least one of the layers not being formatted for containing any global control information for controlling the scanning the information of another information layer.

16. (new) The record carrier of claim 15, in which the global control information includes an indication of the number of layers of the record carrier.

17. (new) The record carrier of claim 15, in which the user information areas of different layers have different formats and the global control information including an indication of the format of the different layers.

18. (new) The record carrier of claim 15, in which the global control information contained in one layer includes an indication of the contents of the user information in another layer.

19. (new) The record carrier of claim 15 in which the global control information includes information for regulating the position of a lens to control the position of a focus of a radiation beam on another information layer which is to be read, such control being effected by a servo-system based on the global control information.

20. (new) The record carrier of claim 15 wherein the control area for one of the layers is before the user information area and the control area for another of the layers is after the user information area in relation to the track-to-track direction in the layer in which tracks of user information are sequentially scanned.

21. (new) The record carrier of claim 15 adapted for reducing the access time to scan the user information from respective layers including:

each layer contains one area of control information formatted for containing all the layer control information required for scanning the layer;

the one area of control information in each layer is proximate to the one area of control information contained in each of the other layers;

only one layer contains the one area of control information formatted for containing the global control information, and the one area of control information of that one layer includes control information for controlling the scanning the user information of all the layers; and

tracks of information in one of the layers are sequentially ordered in one forward track-to-track direction and tracks of information in each layer adjacent to the one layer are sequentially ordered in an opposite forward track-to-track direction, the area of control information being before any user information in the forward direction in the one layer and the area of control information being after all the user information in the forward direction in the adjacent layers.

22. (new) A scanning device, comprising:

a holder for a planar record carrier; and

a scanning head for scanning the record carrier placed in the holder, the record carrier having multiple substantially co-extensive parallel information layers, each layer containing a block formatted for containing control information including layer control information related to a multitude of user information blocks of said layer,

for each layer, the scanning device being adapted for reading the layer control information of the layer before scanning the user information blocks of the layer.

23. (new) A scanning device, comprising:

a holder for a planar record carrier; and

a scanning head for scanning the record carrier placed in the holder with a radiation beam, the record carrier having multiple substantially co-extensive parallel information layers, each layer containing a block formatted for containing control information including layer control information related to a multitude of other blocks of said layer, one of the information layers having a control block formatted for containing global control information for controlling the scanning of user information in another layer,

the scanning device being adapted for reading the global information from the one information layer prior to scanning the user information of any layer.

24. (new) The scanning device of claim 23 wherein:

the global information including an indication of which layer contains a portion of user information,

the scanning device further comprising a servo-system for adjusting the position of a focus of a radiation beam in a direction perpendicular to the plane of the record carrier for scanning different layers of the record carrier depending on the indication of which layer contains the portion of user information.

25. (new) A scanning device, comprising:

a holder for a planar record carrier; and

a scanning head for scanning the record carrier placed in the holder, the record carrier having multiple substantially co-extensive parallel information layers, each layer containing a block formatted for containing control information including layer control information related to a multitude of user information blocks of said layer, the control information of each layer being at the same physical location in the plane of different layers,

the scanning device being adapted for reading the control information from the same physical location in the plane of each layer.

26. (new) A scanning device, comprising:

a holder for a planar record carrier; and

a scanning head for scanning the record carrier placed in the holder, the record carrier having multiple substantially co-extensive parallel information layers, each layer having a block

formatted for containing control information including layer control information related to a multitude of user information blocks of said layer, the control information of each layer being at the same physical location in the plane of different layers, tracks of user information in one of the layers is sequentially scanned in a forward direction opposite to the forward direction that tracks of another of the layers is sequentially scanned.

the scanning device being adapted for reading the layer control information of both the one layer and the other layer before reading the user information of either layer, and sequentially scanning the tracks of user information of the one layer in a first forward direction and then scanning the tracks of user information of the other layer in a second forward direction that is opposite to the first forward direction.

27. (new) A scanning device, comprising:

a holder for a planar record carrier; and

a scanning head for scanning the record carrier placed in the holder, the record carrier having multiple substantially co-extensive parallel information layers, a first information layer being formatted for containing user information in a first format and a second information layer being formatted for containing user information in a second format, the second format having a higher data density than the first format, one of the information layers having global control information indicating that the format of the user information of the second layer has the higher data density,

the scanning device being adapted for reading the global control information and determining which layer is formatted for containing the higher density user information, and scanning the layer formatted for containing the higher density user information area in response to the determination.

• 28. (new) The scanning device of claim 27 wherein the user information areas of the first and second layers contains user information and the user information contained in the second layer includes substantially the same contents as all the user information in the first layer, the second layer containing more information for the same contents.